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Economic Services Division

Committee on China Research

(Minutes of First Meeting - 0900 hours, 10 August 1954)

Members of the Committee are:

Chairman, S/OM
S/TR
S/TF
S/CST
S/COM
S/PM

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25X1A9a All members were present except [REDACTED] who was represented by [REDACTED] S/CST. Also present were:

Chief, D/S
D/S
Chief, S/TR
Chief, S/TF

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[REDACTED] explained that the general purpose of the committee was to enable the D/S analysts working on China to become better acquainted, to coordinate their research activities, and to broaden their knowledge of intelligence targets in China and of D/S responsibility in the area. A major problem is to make a more fruitful exploitation of [REDACTED]. Another problem is to increase the production of Current Support Memoranda, and he suggested that [REDACTED] be invited to an early meeting to brief us on how we can do a better job in this area.

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[REDACTED] stated that it had been decided at division meetings that a Committee on China was desirable, since the division was organized on a functional rather than an area basis, and some means was needed to coordinate the division's activities in China particularly and the Far East generally.

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[REDACTED] stated he felt that a review of the research program for China for the fiscal year would be desirable as a means of acquainting the members with the scope of division activities and to point up any

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major gaps. [REDACTED] said that Ch/E has requested outlines of all branch-initiated projects by September 10 and that the fulfillment of this request would be a good subject for Committee discussion for the accomplishment of the same purpose.

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[REDACTED] pointed out two major source problems in China research:

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[REDACTED] the failure to explicit open sources. He felt that there are a number of publications in English and other languages which are not receiving regular systematic attention as intelligence sources. He suggested that an early project for the committee might be to have bibliographies prepared (by a number of different agencies) to give a clearer idea of what is available. He also suggested that the Committee would provide a useful means of standardizing and coordinating requirements on the one hand and of pinpointing specific requirements, with indication of sources, on the other.

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[REDACTED] made the following points:

The effort to improve our production of Current Support Memoranda is to be encouraged, but he felt that this should come about through the normal development of material rather than from specific requests.

The committee should work closely with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] subsequent arrangements were made with [REDACTED] (N.R. for his attendance at the meetings).

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Informal liaison with the Geographic Research area should be of mutual benefit.

He recommended close liaison with D/A, FE Branch; any formal arrangements or commitments should be made at the Division level. He felt that in general an effort should be made to make requirements more selective.

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[REDACTED] A major intelligence target which will receive increasing attention is the question of Sino-Soviet relations, particularly in Sinkiang.

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[REDACTED] said there are a number of obvious intelligence problems in the area which may at any time require urgent attention; as examples, he mentioned Sino-Japanese relations, the Red penetration of Indonesia, Sinkiang development, Indo-China and Korea.

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[redacted] asked whether the committee is expected to restrict itself to the specific areas of D/S interests. [redacted] said that while we have responsibilities only in those areas, as intelligence officers we should be aware of a wide range of intelligence problems. [redacted] pointed out that frequently problems, such as those he mentioned, first manifest themselves specifically in activities within D/S's responsibilities, e.g., trade agreements, technical assistance programs, transportation and communications, or organizational developments. Thus D/S is in on the ground floor on many diverse problems.

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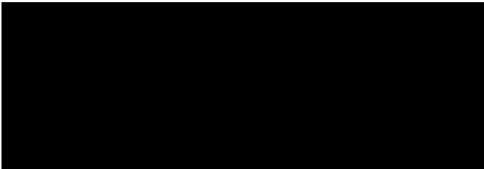
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[redacted] said he felt that the committee would be a useful device for handling such recurring problems as the China Trade and Shipping Report and for anticipating such problems as the implications of the Yangtze River floods. He also urged that the committee make an effort to keep aware of significant research which is being produced by CENIS and other external agencies or individuals.

It was decided that the committee would meet regularly on Thursday afternoons; next meeting, 1 p.m., 19 August 1954 at 2125 W.

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